

# **Annual Town Meeting WARRANT TOWN OF HUDSON**



**MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025**

**Finance Committee  
Report and Recommendations**

### Finance Committee Preamble

To the residents of the Town of Hudson,

Per the authority vested in the Finance Committee according to Massachusetts General Laws (“M.G.L.”), Chapter 39, Section 16, the Town of Hudson Municipal Charter, and the Town of Hudson General Bylaws, the Committee makes the following report for the Articles included in the Warrant for the Town of Hudson Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2025 based upon consideration of the Articles at public hearings with the sponsors and/or petitioners. Please note the following.

For Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), the Warrant includes an article contingent on the passage of a ballot question to raise tax revenue beyond annual statutory limits imposed by M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (“**Proposition 2½**”). In Massachusetts, municipal revenues to support municipal spending, including, for example, public safety, recreation, and the schools, are raised through the property tax levy, state aid, local receipts and other sources. The property tax levy is the revenue a municipality can raise through real and personal property taxes (the “**levy**”). The property tax levy is the largest source of revenue for most municipalities, including the Town of Hudson. Proposition 2½ places constraints on the amount of levy a municipality can raise and on how much the levy can be increased from year to year. Proposition 2½ establishes two types of constraints. First, a municipality cannot levy more than 2½ percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property in the municipality (the “**levy ceiling**”). The levy ceiling is determined by calculating 2½ percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property in a municipality. Second, a municipality’s levy can only be increased by a certain amount from year to year (the “**levy limit**”). The levy limit is calculated by taking the previous year’s levy limit and increasing it by 2½ percent and adding the amount of certified new growth and the amount of override authorized by a ballot question, if any. The levy limit cannot exceed the levy ceiling. The levy limit can increase from year to year as long as it remains below the levy ceiling. Proposition 2½ allows a municipality to assess taxes in excess of the automatic, annual 2½ percent increase, and any increase due to new growth, by passing an override. A municipality may take this action as long as it is below its levy ceiling. Thus, if the Town of Hudson passes an override, then the levy limit for FY26 will be calculated including the amount of the override. Passage of the override will result in a permanent increase in the levy limit, which, as part of the levy limit base, increases at the rate of 2½ percent each year. A majority vote of the Select Board allowed the override question to be placed on the ballot and a majority vote of approval by the electorate is required for the ballot question to pass.

Town Meeting must pass an operating budget to fund operations in FY26, with or without an override. If the override ballot question fails, then the budget to fund operations *without* an override will be the Article 3 budget. If the override ballot question passes, then the budget to fund operations *with* an override will be the Article 4 budget. The Finance Committee recommends approval of each budget included in Article 3 and Article 4, which places the decision of which budget to approve in the hands of the electorate at the Town Election on May 12, 2025, where the electorate will vote on the ballot question regarding the override. Approval of both budgets at Town Meeting guarantees that a budget will be in place to fund operations regardless of the outcome of the vote.

#### Article 1 – Prior Year Bills

M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 64, requires that a bill from a prior year, that is, an invoice received after the Town *closes* its books for the fiscal year, must be presented to Town Meeting for authorization to pay with current year funds. Bills totaling \$1,150.00 were submitted after the Town closed its books for FY25. The bills will be paid by appropriating current year funds from the respective departments. A 9/10ths vote is required for passage.

#### Article 2 – Year-End Transfer of Funds

Per M.G.L Chapter 44, Section 33B, a Town may, by majority vote at any meeting duly held, transfer any amount previously appropriated to any other use authorized by law. Alternatively, the Select Board, with the concurrence of the Finance Committee, may transfer within the last 2 months of any fiscal year, or during the first 15 days of the new fiscal year to apply to the previous fiscal year, any amount appropriated, other than for the use of the Municipal Light Department or School Department, to any other appropriation. The “*sum of money*” to be transfer per this Article was not known prior to the deadline for submitting this report.

Article 3 – Budget A (FY26 General Operating Budget Without a Proposition 2-1/2 General Operating Budget Override)

The Article 3 budget funds operations without a Proposition 2½ override. This budget will eliminate or reduce the hours in Town staff positions (non-school) with a total reduction equivalent to an estimated 5.6 employees. In addition, Hudson Public Schools will reduce approximately 30 positions in FY26 with further reductions required in subsequent years. The School staff reductions will result in increased class sizes, program eliminations, and additional fees that will have an overall detrimental impact on school operations. If the override does not pass, then it is possible that another override question will be placed on a ballot in coming months to restore services in the Hudson Public Schools for FY27.

Article 4 – Budget B (FY26 General Operating Budget Funding School and Municipal Operations Contingent Upon Passage by Ballot of a Proposition 2-1/2 General Operating Budget Override)

The Article 4 budget funds operations with a Proposition 2½ override of \$3,950,000.00 to address shortfalls in both Town and Hudson Public Schools operating budgets for the period from FY26 to FY29. Only \$2,375,000.00 will be added to the tax levy for FY26 with the remaining \$1,575,000.00 available, as necessary, as excess levy capacity, which can only be levied with the approval of the Select Board and appropriated (spent) with the approval of Town Meeting. This budget will maintain the Town and some School staff positions. The Hudson Public Schools will still reduce their budget by \$1,100,000.00 via the elimination of the equivalent of 12 staff positions and 2 buses. The average tax bill for a single-family, residential homeowner would increase by approximately \$287.00 in FY26 if this budget is implemented.

Article 5 – Capital Plan – General Fund

Article 5 includes a request, among others, from the Hudson Public Schools for \$100,000.00 for a District-Wide Space Utilization Study to optimize the use of school facilities in light of enrollment declines. This study may result in opportunities for budget reductions in subsequent years.

Article 6 – DPW Salt Storage Shed – Transfer from Free Cash

The plan for the new DPW building originally included relocating salt storage from the DPW grounds to the existing transfer station building after the relocation of transfer station operations from the transfer station grounds to the DPW grounds. However, due to delays with the relocation of transfer station operations, a new salt storage shed is now required on the DPW grounds.

Article 7 – HVAC Improvements to Town Hall

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$915,000.00, \$425,000.00 from available Free Cash and \$490,000.00 from unspent balances in any capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed, for heating venting and air conditioning improvements to Town Hall. Future grants may received in the future to retroactively reimburse these costs.

Article 8 – Fire Department Aerial Ladder Truck Acquisition - Borrowing

The Aerial Ladder Truck has a 4 year lead time and a current cost of \$2,228,569.00. The Town's Capital Plan will include \$500,000.00 in both FY26 and FY27 for this equipment to begin funding this equipment. However, a borrowing authorization for the full cost of the equipment is required now to place the order at the current cost.

Article 9 – Transfer from Water Retained Earnings

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$950,000.00 from the *retained earnings* of the Water Enterprise Fund for the design, permitting, and construction of Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and Well Replacement.

Article 10 – Transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$400,000.00 from the *retained earnings* of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades.

Article 11 – Water Enterprise Fund

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$4,701,737.00 from the *receipts and revenue* of the Water Enterprise Fund to fund the Water Department FY26 budget.

Article 12 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$6,233,612.00 from the *receipts and revenue* of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to fund the Sewer Department FY26 budget.

Article 13 – Storm Water Enterprise Fund

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$1,278,500 from the *receipts and revenue* of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund to fund the Stormwater Department FY26 budget.

Article 14 – Fund Assessor’s FY26 Certification of Values

No comments.

Article 15 – Establish and Appropriate to a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund

The Town dissolved its Health Insurance Trust at a prior Town Meeting and authorized the distribution of the Trust Funds to the subscribers (50%) and the Town (50%). This Article authorizes the Town to establish a Health Insurance Stabilization fund in the amount of \$709,965.00, that is, the amount distributed to the Town from the dissolution of the Trust, and to use such finds over the next several years to stabilize the Town’s appropriation for health insurance.

Article 16 – Transfer From Health Insurance Stabilization Fund

This Article authorizes the transfer of \$400,000.00 from the fund created in Article 15 to the Town’s operating budget to reduce the Town’s appropriation for health insurance in FY26.

Article 17 – PEG Access and Cable Related Budget

No comments.

Article 18 – Transfer to Stabilization

This Article authorizes the transfer of \$605,000.00 from available Free Cash to the Town’s Stabilization Fund created at a prior Town Meeting per M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B. The Town at Town Meeting may, by a majority vote, transfer funds into this account and may by a two-thirds vote, appropriate funds from this account for any lawful purpose. The funds will be used by the Finance Department to complete its transition from existing to new municipal finance software.

Article 19 – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Study

This study will result in a report including recommendations for improving the reliability and operation of these services, including, for example, operating EMS as a municipal service.

Article 20 – Senior Tax Credit Program

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$30,000.00 to fund an increase in the maximum compensation from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00 for 10 seniors in FY26.

Article 21 – Transfer to Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$50,000.00 to fund the OPEB liability, that is, health insurance for retired Town of Hudson employees. The Town's projected OPEB liability is approximately \$80,000,000.00 and the Trust balance is approximately \$1,100,000.00 currently.

Article 22 – Amend Town Charter: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager by Special Act

No comments.

Article 23 – Amend General By-Laws: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager

No comments.

Article 24 – Amend General By-Laws: Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction

Sponsored by the Board of Health, this Article proposes to amend the General By-Laws to eliminate the use of foam polystyrene, black solid polystyrene, and black plastic in food service ware and packaging by all food and retail establishments within the Town by January 1, 2026. In doing so, this amendment promotes the use of less toxic and more biodegradable, compostable, durable, recyclable, and/or reusable alternatives.

Article 25 – Community Preservation Reservation of Funds

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5 (“Community Preservation Act”).

Article 26 – Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5.

Article 27 – Community Preservation Transfer to Affordable Housing

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5.

Article 28 – Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Centennial Beach Debt Service

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5.

Article 29 – Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts

No comments.

Article 30 – Assabet River Water Quality Monitoring

No comments.

Article 31 – Departmental Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 53D, 53E½, and others, including, for example, for School Departments. A revolving fund separately accounts for specific revenues and earmarks them for expenditure by a board or officer without appropriation for particular purposes to support the activity, program or service that generated the revenues. Typically, revolving funds are authorized by state law for programs or services with expenses that fluctuate with demand and can be matched with the fees, charges or other revenues collected during the year. Local acceptance of a new revolving fund, if required by statute, is by a vote at Town Meeting. The vote to adopt each of the revolving funds included in this Article occurred at prior Town Meetings. This Article merely authorizes the noted spending limits.

Article 32 – Light and Power Surplus Account

No comments.

Article 33 – Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation

No comments.

Article 34 – Adoption of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23D - Mullin Rule

No comments.

Article 35 – Annual Town Reports

No comments.

Article 36 – Amend General By-Laws: Finance Committee Term of Office

The members of the Town Finance Committee consist of 9 citizens of the Town, other than Town Officers and members of other committees. Members are appointed to serve on the Committee in staggered 3 year terms and have varying backgrounds and viewpoints representative of the Town. For the Committee to be successful, it is important that such varying backgrounds and viewpoints be represented consistently at Committee meetings.

Article 37 – Petitioned Article: Addiction Referral Center

No comments.

**The Finance Committee:**

*Sam Calandra, Chairman*

*Eugenia Vineyard, Vice Chair*

*Guy Beaudette, Robert Clark*

*Herman Kabakoff, Steve Forti*

*Jillian Jagling, Joseph McNealy*

*Claudinor Salomão*

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**TOWN WARRANT**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Middlesex, ss.**

To either of the constables of the Town of Hudson in the County of Middlesex,  
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to  
notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hudson, qualified to vote in elections and in  
Town affairs, to assemble in the Hudson High School, Brigham Street, in said Town on

**MONDAY, the Fifth day of**

**MAY**

**in the year 2025**

at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. Then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLE 1 Prior Years Bills**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,150 from previously certified and available Free Cash for the purpose of paying prior year bills for costs incurred in previous fiscal years per General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 1: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 2 Year-End Transfer of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from previously certified and available Free Cash and appropriate said sum to various departmental appropriations for Fiscal 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 2: The Finance Committee has deferred action on this article until Town Meeting.**

**ARTICLE 3 Approve Fiscal Year 2026 General Operating Budget Without a Proposition Two and One-Half General Operating Budget Override – Budget “A”**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof, for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and that such sums be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective Town Officers, Boards, and Committees; provided that this vote shall not take effect and be deemed null and void if the vote taken pursuant to Article 4 on the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting and the associated override ballot question vote are both approved; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 3: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-2-0**

Department		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 – Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 – Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26- Fin Com Recommend</u>
1	Select Board	Personnel	9,000	11,021	13,000	13,000	13,000
2	Select Board	Expenses	4,563	4,469	4,850	4,850	4,850
<b>Select Board Total</b>		<b>13,563</b>	<b>15,490</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>
3	Executive Assistant	Personnel	344,811	354,485	365,777	372,802	372,802
4	Executive Assistant	Expenses	5,552	6,731	5,863	11,863	11,863
5	Election & Town Meeting	Personnel	40,790	32,115	53,339	16,227	16,227
6	Election & Town Meeting	Expenses	23,039	21,033	20,225	19,425	19,425
7	Community Development	Personnel	231,367	272,810	296,691	260,836	260,836
8	Community Development	Expenses	19,294	16,062	21,200	16,450	16,450
9	Legal Services	Expenses	270,000	196,457	250,000	250,000	250,000
10	Building Maintenance	Personnel	91,786	0	0	0	0
11	Town Hall Expenses	Expenses	202,479	70,956	73,481	76,179	76,179
12	Personnel Expense	Expenses	14,959	27,328	16,260	16,260	16,260
<b>Exe. Assistant Total</b>		<b>1,244,079</b>	<b>997,979</b>	<b>1,102,836</b>	<b>1,040,042</b>	<b>1,040,042</b>	<b>1,040,042</b>
13	Finance Department	Personnel	720,498	787,329	697,864	693,751	693,751
14	Finance Department	Expenses	155,074	317,726	157,075	169,075	169,075
<b>Finance Dept. Total</b>		<b>875,572</b>	<b>1,105,054</b>	<b>854,939</b>	<b>862,826</b>	<b>862,826</b>	<b>862,826</b>
15	IT Department	Personnel	0	0	261,244	264,306	264,306
16	IT Department	Expenses	0	0	358,281	525,148	525,148
<b>IT Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>619,526</b>	<b>789,454</b>	<b>789,454</b>	<b>789,454</b>
17	Clerk/Registrar	Personnel	158,563	159,897	183,730	192,060	192,060
18	Town Clerk	Expenses	14,553	14,354	16,525	16,853	16,853
<b>Town Clerk Total</b>		<b>173,116</b>	<b>174,251</b>	<b>200,255</b>	<b>208,913</b>	<b>208,913</b>	<b>208,913</b>
19	Moderator	Expenses	110	110	110	110	110
20	Finance Committee	Expenses	0	388	603	100,600	100,600
21	Board of Assessors	Personnel	30,904	31,522	32,152	32,152	32,152
22	Board of Assessors	Expenses	59,275	46,909	119,350	94,350	94,350
23	Municipal Light Board	Personnel	3,900	3,300	3,900	3,900	3,900
24	Fort Meadow Comm.	Expenses	4,678	3,300	8,200	8,200	8,200
25	Lake Boon Comm.	Expenses	3,692	0	3,200	3,200	3,200
26	Historical District Comm.	Expenses	750	750	784	784	784
<b>Board &amp; Com Total</b>		<b>102,815</b>	<b>86,279</b>	<b>168,299</b>	<b>243,296</b>	<b>243,296</b>	<b>243,296</b>
27	Police Department	Personnel	3,736,680	3,945,976	4,397,149	4,507,713	4,507,713
28	Police Department	Expenses	575,757	553,145	611,072	690,025	690,025
<b>Police Dept. Total</b>		<b>4,312,437</b>	<b>4,499,121</b>	<b>5,008,221</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 - Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 – Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 - Fin Com Recommend</u>
29 Fire Department	Personnel	3,528,756	3,706,578	3,921,482	3,973,380	3,973,380	3,973,380
30 Fire Department	Expenses	389,248	454,339	463,210	542,848	542,848	542,848
<b>Fire Dept. Total</b>		<b>3,918,004</b>	<b>4,160,916</b>	<b>4,384,692</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>
31 Inspections Dept.	Personnel	207,755	299,044	314,685	313,077	313,077	313,077
32 Inspections Dept.	Expenses	17,436	13,918	16,336	18,880	18,880	18,880
<b>Insp. Dept. Total</b>		<b>225,191</b>	<b>312,962</b>	<b>331,021</b>	<b>331,957</b>	<b>331,957</b>	<b>331,957</b>
33 DPW Snow & Ice	Personnel	81,853	89,420	141,795	144,550	144,550	144,550
34 DPW Snow & Ice	Expenses	360,395	285,918	212,700	212,700	212,700	212,700
35 Public Works	Personnel	1,317,535	1,878,316	2,416,451	2,399,414	2,399,414	2,399,414
36 Public Works	Expenses	553,625	831,433	1,313,750	1,372,600	1,372,600	1,372,600
<b>DPW Total</b>		<b>2,313,408</b>	<b>3,085,087</b>	<b>4,084,696</b>	<b>4,129,264</b>	<b>4,129,264</b>	<b>4,129,264</b>
37 Board of Health	Personnel	142,612	160,119	229,141	240,328	240,328	240,328
38 Board of Health	Expenses	23,828	29,434	16,470	14,970	14,970	14,970
<b>BOH Total</b>		<b>166,440</b>	<b>189,553</b>	<b>245,611</b>	<b>255,298</b>	<b>255,298</b>	<b>255,298</b>
39 Council on Aging	Personnel	282,617	300,683	314,126	295,961	295,961	295,961
40 Council on Aging	Expenses	34,554	38,447	35,800	40,752	40,752	40,752
<b>COA Total</b>		<b>317,171</b>	<b>339,130</b>	<b>349,926</b>	<b>336,713</b>	<b>336,713</b>	<b>336,713</b>
41 Veterans' Services	Personnel	74,469	76,992	82,422	86,562	86,562	86,562
42 Veterans' Services	Expenses	55,099	48,957	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
<b>Veterans' Total</b>		<b>129,568</b>	<b>125,949</b>	<b>150,422</b>	<b>154,562</b>	<b>154,562</b>	<b>154,562</b>
43 Library	Personnel	605,167	606,716	706,730	688,151	688,151	688,151
44 Library	Expenses	230,995	232,036	243,884	259,100	259,100	259,100
<b>Library Dept. Total</b>		<b>836,162</b>	<b>838,752</b>	<b>945,614</b>	<b>947,251</b>	<b>947,251</b>	<b>947,251</b>
45 Recreation	Personnel	316,312	332,089	397,402	411,867	411,867	411,867
46 Recreation	Expenses	64,186	69,350	74,054	74,795	74,795	74,795
<b>Recreation Dept. Total</b>		<b>380,498</b>	<b>401,439</b>	<b>471,456</b>	<b>486,662</b>	<b>486,662</b>	<b>486,662</b>
47 Debt Service	Expenses	7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	4,491,216
<b>Debt Total</b>		<b>7,097,897</b>	<b>4,529,940</b>	<b>4,711,906</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>
48 Pensions	Expenses	6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	7,938,868 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Pension Total</b>		<b>6,794,331</b>	<b>7,443,000</b>	<b>7,920,764</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>
49 Group Health Ins.	Expenses	4,655,827	5,655,280	6,336,512	7,373,842	7,373,842	7,373,842
50 General Insurance	Expenses	580,184	748,076	594,457	1,191,287	1,191,287	1,191,287
<b>Insurance Total</b>		<b>5,236,012</b>	<b>6,403,355</b>	<b>6,930,969</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>

<sup>1</sup> Recommend that \$225,000 be taken from Light & Power Surplus Account and be applied to Line 48, Contributory Retirement and Pensions.

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 Exec. Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 FinCom Recommend</u>
51 Assabet Valley	Expenses	3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	3,539,141
<b>Assabet Valley Total</b>		<b>3,178,596</b>	<b>3,301,238</b>	<b>3,331,679</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>
52 Hudson Schools	Personnel	33,524,361	35,055,340	35,864,710	35,338,637	35,338,637	35,338,637
53 Hudson Schools	Expenses	7,202,731	6,000,000	6,120,000	7,783,436	7,783,436	7,783,436
<b>Schools Total</b>		<b>40,727,091</b>	<b>41,005,340</b>	<b>41,984,710</b>	<b>43,122,073</b>	<b>43,122,073</b>	<b>43,122,073</b>
54 Schools Transportation	Expenses	1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	3,514,630
<b>Transportation Total</b>		<b>1,850,645</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>2,295,000</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>
<b>Hudson Schools Total</b>		<b>42,577,737</b>	<b>43,305,340</b>	<b>44,279,710</b>	<b>46,636,703</b>	<b>46,636,703</b>	<b>46,636,703</b>
<b>Total Operations</b>		<b>79,893,088</b>	<b>81,341,836</b>	<b>86,110,392</b>	<b>90,689,111</b>	<b>90,689,111</b>	<b>90,689,111</b>

***ARTICLE 4 Approve Fiscal Year 2026 General Operating Budget Funding School and Municipal Operations Contingent Upon Passage by Ballot of a Proposition Two and One-Half General Operating Budget Override – Budget “B”***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof, for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and that such sums be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective Town Officers, Boards, and Committees; provided that such appropriation shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition Two and One-Half general operating override by ballot pursuant to Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws for the purpose of funding school and municipal operations; or take any other action relative thereto.

***Article 4: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-2-0***

Department		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 – Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 – Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26- Fin Com Recommend</u>
1 Select Board	Personnel	9,000	11,021	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
2 Select Board	Expenses	4,563	4,469	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,850
<b>Select Board Total</b>		<b>13,563</b>	<b>15,490</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>
3 Executive Assistant	Personnel	344,811	354,485	365,777	372,802	372,802	372,802
4 Executive Assistant	Expenses	5,552	6,731	5,863	11,863	11,863	11,863
5 Election & Town Meeting	Personnel	40,790	32,115	53,339	16,227	16,227	16,227
6 Election & Town Meeting	Expenses	23,039	21,033	20,225	19,425	19,425	19,425
7 Community Development	Personnel	231,367	272,810	296,691	305,757	305,757	305,757
8 Community Development	Expenses	19,294	16,062	21,200	16,450	16,450	16,450
9 Legal Services	Expenses	270,000	196,457	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
10 Building Maintenance	Personnel	91,786	0	0	0	0	0
11 Town Hall Expenses	Expenses	202,479	70,956	73,481	76,179	76,179	76,179
12 Personnel Expense	Expenses	14,959	27,328	16,260	16,260	16,260	16,260
<b>Exe. Assistant Total</b>		<b>1,244,079</b>	<b>997,979</b>	<b>1,102,836</b>	<b>1,084,963</b>	<b>1,084,963</b>	<b>1,084,963</b>
13 Finance Department	Personnel	720,498	787,329	697,864	740,912	740,912	740,912
14 Finance Department	Expenses	155,074	317,726	157,075	169,075	169,075	169,075
<b>Finance Dept. Total</b>		<b>875,572</b>	<b>1,105,054</b>	<b>854,939</b>	<b>909,987</b>	<b>909,987</b>	<b>909,987</b>
15 IT Department	Personnel	0	0	261,244	264,306	264,306	264,306
16 IT Department	Expenses	0	0	358,281	525,148	525,148	525,148
<b>IT Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>619,526</b>	<b>789,454</b>	<b>789,454</b>	<b>789,454</b>
17 Clerk/Registrar	Personnel	158,563	159,897	183,730	192,060	192,060	192,060
18 Town Clerk	Expenses	14,553	14,354	16,525	16,853	16,853	16,853
<b>Town Clerk Total</b>		<b>173,116</b>	<b>174,251</b>	<b>200,255</b>	<b>208,913</b>	<b>208,913</b>	<b>208,913</b>
19 Moderator	Expenses	110	110	110	110	110	110
20 Finance Committee	Expenses	0	388	603	100,600	100,600	100,600
21 Board of Assessors	Personnel	30,904	31,522	32,152	32,152	32,152	32,152
22 Board of Assessors	Expenses	59,275	46,909	119,350	119,350	119,350	119,350
23 Municipal Light Board	Personnel	3,900	3,300	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
24 Fort Meadow Comm.	Expenses	4,678	3,300	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
25 Lake Boon Comm.	Expenses	3,692	0	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
26 Historical District Comm.	Expenses	750	750	784	784	784	784
<b>Board &amp; Com Total</b>		<b>102,815</b>	<b>86,279</b>	<b>168,299</b>	<b>268,296</b>	<b>268,296</b>	<b>268,296</b>
27 Police Department	Personnel	3,736,680	3,945,976	4,397,149	4,507,713	4,507,713	4,507,713
28 Police Department	Expenses	575,757	553,145	611,072	690,025	690,025	690,025
<b>Police Dept. Total</b>		<b>4,312,437</b>	<b>4,499,121</b>	<b>5,008,221</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>	<b>5,197,738</b>

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 - Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 - Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 - Fin Com Recommend</u>
29 Fire Department	Personnel	3,528,756	3,706,578	3,921,482	3,973,380	3,973,380	3,973,380
30 Fire Department	Expenses	389,248	454,339	463,210	542,848	542,848	542,848
<b>Fire Dept. Total</b>		<b>3,918,004</b>	<b>4,160,916</b>	<b>4,384,692</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>	<b>4,516,228</b>
31 Inspections Dept.	Personnel	207,755	299,044	314,685	346,391	346,391	346,391
32 Inspections Dept.	Expenses	17,436	13,918	16,336	18,880	18,880	18,880
<b>Insp. Dept. Total</b>		<b>225,191</b>	<b>312,962</b>	<b>331,021</b>	<b>365,271</b>	<b>365,271</b>	<b>365,271</b>
33 DPW Snow & Ice	Personnel	81,853	89,420	141,795	144,550	144,550	144,550
34 DPW Snow & Ice	Expenses	360,395	285,918	212,700	212,700	212,700	212,700
35 Public Works	Personnel	1,317,535	1,878,316	2,416,451	2,515,626	2,515,626	2,515,626
36 Public Works	Expenses	553,625	831,433	1,313,750	1,372,600	1,372,600	1,372,600
<b>DPW Total</b>		<b>2,313,408</b>	<b>3,085,087</b>	<b>4,084,696</b>	<b>4,245,476</b>	<b>4,245,476</b>	<b>4,245,476</b>
37 Board of Health	Personnel	142,612	160,119	229,141	240,328	240,328	240,328
38 Board of Health	Expenses	23,828	29,434	16,470	14,970	14,970	14,970
<b>BOH Total</b>		<b>166,440</b>	<b>189,553</b>	<b>245,611</b>	<b>255,298</b>	<b>255,298</b>	<b>255,298</b>
39 Council on Aging	Personnel	282,617	300,683	314,126	319,369	319,369	319,369
40 Council on Aging	Expenses	34,554	38,447	35,800	40,752	40,752	40,752
<b>COA Total</b>		<b>317,171</b>	<b>339,130</b>	<b>349,926</b>	<b>360,121</b>	<b>360,121</b>	<b>360,121</b>
41 Veterans' Services	Personnel	74,469	76,992	82,422	86,562	86,562	86,562
42 Veterans' Services	Expenses	55,099	48,957	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
<b>Veterans' Total</b>		<b>129,568</b>	<b>125,949</b>	<b>150,422</b>	<b>154,562</b>	<b>154,562</b>	<b>154,562</b>
43 Library	Personnel	605,167	606,716	706,730	721,310	721,310	721,310
44 Library	Expenses	230,995	232,036	243,884	259,100	259,100	259,100
<b>Library Dept. Total</b>		<b>836,162</b>	<b>838,752</b>	<b>945,614</b>	<b>980,410</b>	<b>980,410</b>	<b>980,410</b>
45 Recreation	Personnel	316,312	332,089	397,402	411,867	411,867	411,867
46 Recreation	Expenses	64,186	69,350	74,054	74,795	74,795	74,795
<b>Recreation Dept. Total</b>		<b>380,498</b>	<b>401,439</b>	<b>471,456</b>	<b>486,662</b>	<b>486,662</b>	<b>486,662</b>
47 Debt Service	Expenses	7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	4,491,216
<b>Debt Total</b>		<b>7,097,897</b>	<b>4,529,940</b>	<b>4,711,906</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>	<b>4,491,216</b>
48 Pensions	Expenses	6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	7,938,868 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Pension Total</b>		<b>6,794,331</b>	<b>7,443,000</b>	<b>7,920,764</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>	<b>7,938,868</b>
49 Group Health Ins.	Expenses	4,655,827	5,655,280	6,336,512	7,373,842	7,373,842	7,373,842
50 General Insurance	Expenses	580,184	748,076	594,457	1,191,287	1,191,287	1,191,287
<b>Insurance Total</b>		<b>5,236,012</b>	<b>6,403,355</b>	<b>6,930,969</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>	<b>8,565,129</b>

<sup>2</sup> Recommend that \$225,000 be taken from Light & Power Surplus Account and be applied to Line 48, Contributory Retirement and Pensions.

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 Exec. Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 Fin Com Recommend</u>
51 Assabet Valley	Expenses	3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	3,539,141
<b>Assabet Valley Total</b>		<b>3,178,596</b>	<b>3,301,238</b>	<b>3,331,679</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>	<b>3,539,141</b>
52 Hudson Schools	Personnel	33,524,361	35,055,340	35,864,710	37,388,637	37,388,637	37,388,637
53 Hudson Schools	Expenses	7,202,731	6,000,000	6,120,000	7,783,436	7,783,436	7,783,436
<b>Schools Total</b>		<b>40,727,091</b>	<b>41,005,340</b>	<b>41,984,710</b>	<b>45,172,073</b>	<b>45,172,073</b>	<b>45,172,073</b>
54 Schools Transportation	Expenses	1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	3,514,630
<b>Transportation Total</b>		<b>1,850,645</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>2,295,000</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>	<b>3,514,630</b>
<b>Hudson Schools Total</b>		<b>42,577,737</b>	<b>43,305,340</b>	<b>44,279,710</b>	<b>48,686,703</b>	<b>48,686,703</b>	<b>48,686,703</b>
<b>Total Operations</b>		<b>79,893,088</b>	<b>81,341,836</b>	<b>86,110,392</b>	<b>93,062,286</b>	<b>93,062,286</b>	<b>93,062,286</b>

Executive Assistant  
Select Board



**ARTICLE 5 Capital Plan – General Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,269,889 from previously certified and available Free Cash to purchase items of equipment and make capital improvements requested by the various departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	<b>Source of Funds:</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	Wheeled Excavator	\$306,000	Free Cash
	International Dump Sander & Plow	\$190,000	Free Cash
	<b>Public Works Total:</b>	<b>\$496,000</b>	
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	Replacement of Tower 1	\$500,000	Free Cash
	Corrosion Repair: Eng. 4, Eng. 5, Rescue 1	\$77,500	Free Cash
	<b>Fire Dept. Total:</b>	<b>\$577,500</b>	
<b>IT</b>	Microsoft Office Prof Plus – 150 Licenses	\$89,964	Free Cash
	<b>IT Total:</b>	<b>\$89,964</b>	
<b>Police</b>	Cruiser Replacements	\$233,000	Free Cash
	Mobile Computers	\$110,000	Free Cash
	<b>Police Total:</b>	<b>\$343,000</b>	
<b>Recreation</b>	Riverside Tennis Court Improvements	\$87,000	Free Cash
	<b>Recreation Total:</b>	<b>\$87,000</b>	
<b>School</b>	Replace (2) Boilers at Forest Ave School	\$410,000	Free Cash
	Bus Parking Lot Site Work	\$166,425	Free Cash
	District Wide Space Utilization Study	\$100,000	Free Cash
	<b>School Total:</b>	<b>\$676,425</b>	
	<b>Grant Total Capital Plan:</b>	<b>\$2,269,889</b>	

Executive Assistant, Public Works  
 Director, Finance Director, Fire Chief, IT  
 Director, Police Chief, Recreation  
 Director, School Superintendent, Select  
 Board

**Article 5: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 6 DPW Salt Storage Shed – Transfer from Free Cash**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of designing, permitting, and constructing a salt storage shed to be sited at 1 Municipal Drive, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 6: The Finance Committee has deferred action on this article until Town Meeting.**

**ARTICLE 7 HVAC Improvements to Town Hall**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$915,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of improvements to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in Town Hall, and to meet said appropriation by transferring the sum of \$424,380.24 from previously certified and available Free Cash, and by transferring the sum of \$490,619.76 from unspent balances in capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed for its original voted purpose as shown more particularly below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Account Name/TM Date & Art	Account Number	Original Appropriation	Unspent Balance	Original Purpose
TH Air Handler - Art 6 5/19	3713-100-1230-5890-049	\$39,000.00	\$33,987.50	Replace Town Hall Air Handler (basement)
TH Renovations - Art 5 6/20	3800-100-1232-5890-049	\$297,556.00	\$124,021.00	Town Hall Renovation
TH Renov - Art 18 5/18 (CPA)	3333-284-1984-5790-411	\$212,130.00	\$117,463.31	Rehabilitation and renovation of Town Hall
Energy Use Reduction - Art 17 5/13	2970-100-1232-5513-049	\$30,000.00	\$15,147.95	Town's portion of costs associated with reducing energy consumption and/or advancing renewable energy projects at municipally owned properties; to study or implement energy conservation measures at any or all of the following buildings: Hudson Public Library, Town Hall, Police Station
HVAC Improv TH - Art 5 5/23	4126-100-1236-5790-049	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	HVAC Improvements to Town Hall
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$490,619.76</b>	

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 7: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 8 Fire Department Aerial Ladder Truck Acquisition - Borrowing**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,228,569 for the purpose of purchasing an aerial ladder truck and related equipment for the Fire Department; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized

to borrow the sum of \$2,228,569 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Fire Chief  
Select Board

**Article 8: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 9 Transfer from Water Retained Earnings**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$950,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of Treatment Plant Upgrades and Well Replacement, as shown more particularly below, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$200,000
Well Replacement	\$750,000

Executive Assistant  
Public Works Director  
Select Board

**Article 9: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 10 Transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Pump Station upgrades, as shown more particularly below, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$100,000
Pump Station Engineering	\$300,000

Executive Assistant  
Public Works Director  
Select Board

**Article 10: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 11 Water Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$4,701,737 for use of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Water Enterprise Fund collected by the Water Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$981,728
Expenses	\$1,897,550
Indirect Costs	\$921,802
Debt Service Costs	\$900,658
TOTAL	\$4,701,737

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$921,802; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
DPW Director  
Select Board

**Article 11: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-1**

**ARTICLE 12 Sewer Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$6,233,612 for use of the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Sewer Enterprise Fund collected by the Sewer Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$502,172
Expenses	\$2,590,800
Indirect Costs	\$848,234
Debt Service Costs	\$2,292,406
TOTAL	\$6,233,612

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$848,234; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
DPW Director  
Select Board

**Article 12: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-1**

**ARTICLE 13 Storm Water Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$1,278,500 for use of the Stormwater Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund collected by the Stormwater Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$134,747
Expenses	\$563,000
Indirect Costs	\$180,753
Capital Outlay	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$1,278,500

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$180,753; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
DPW Director  
Select Board

**Article 13: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-1**

**ARTICLE 14 Fund Assessor's FY2026 Year Certification of Values**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$210,000 from the Overlay Surplus to be expended by the Board of Assessors for the revaluation of properties in the Town of Hudson in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, Chapter 58, Sections 1 and 1A, and the regulations of the Department of Revenue; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Board of Assessors

**Article 14: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0**

**ARTICLE 15 Establish and Appropriate to a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing health insurance premium costs to the Town, under General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, and further, to vote to transfer the sum of \$709,965 from the Town's Health Insurance Claims Trust Fund (Account #0900-820-9242-5799-124) to be deposited into said Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 15: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 16 Transfer From Health Insurance Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund the sum of \$400,000, said sum to be transferred to the Health Insurance line in the Town's operating budget (line #49 – Group Health Insurance) for the purpose of reducing the Town's FY2026 appropriation for health insurance; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 16: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 17 PEG Access and Cable Related Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following expenditures from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F¾:

**HUD Access Television Studio**

HUD-TV Salaries	\$228,478
HUD-TV Operational Expenses	\$72,647

**Town Internet Networking (INET)**

INET Salaries	\$0
INET Operational Expenses	\$131,000

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\$432,125

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
School Director of Technology  
Select Board

**Article 17: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 18 Transfer to Stabilization**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$605,000 from previously certified and available Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 18: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0**

**ARTICLE 19 Emergency Medical Services Study**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) study said sum to be spent under the direction of the Fire Chief, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 19: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 20 Senior Tax Credit Program**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of compensating senior citizens for services rendered to the Town pursuant to an agreement for service to be formulated and approved by the Select Board, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash;

said sum to be spent under the direction of the Director of the Hudson Senior Center and the Select Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Senior Center Director  
Select Board

***Article 20: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. 9-0-0***

***ARTICLE 21 Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund established under Article 16 of the November 2016 Town Meeting for retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20; and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

***Article 21: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0***

***ARTICLE 22 Amend Town Charter: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager by Special Act***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to submit a proposed Special Act to the General Court of the Commonwealth to amend the charter of the Town of Hudson, which is on file in the office of the Archivist of the Commonwealth, as follows, or to take any other action relative thereto:

An Act amending the charter of the Town of Hudson.

SECTION 1. Section 1-2 of Article 1 of the charter of the Town of Hudson, which is on file in the office of the Archivist of the Commonwealth, is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 2. Section 3-4(d) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 3. Section 3-4(e) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 4. Section 3-4(g) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.



SECTION 5. Section 3-4(h) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 6. Section 3-7(a) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 7. The heading ARTICLE 4-EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 8. Section 4-1(a) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 9. Section 4-1(b) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 10. Section 4-2 of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 11. Section 4-3(a) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 12. Section 4-3(c) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 13. The heading SECTION 4-4: ACTING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 14. Section 4-4 of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 15. The heading SECTION 4-5: REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 16. Section 4-5(b) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 17. Section 4-5(c) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 18. Section 4-5(d) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 19. Section 4-5(e) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 20. Section 4-5(h) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 21. Section 4-5(i) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 22. Section 5-1-2, first unnumbered paragraph, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 23. Section 5-2 of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 24. Section 5-4, Step 2, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 25. Section 5-4, Step 3, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 26. Section 6-2 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 27. Section 6-3 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 28. Section 6-4 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 29. Section 6-5(a) of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 30. Section 6-6(b) of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 31. Section 6-7 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 32. Section 6-8 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 33. Section 6-9 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words “executive assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 34. Section 8-7(a) of Article 8 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “Executive Assistant” and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 35. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Select Board

***Article 22; The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0***

**ARTICLE 23 Amend General By-Laws: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager**

To see if the Town will vote to amend all applicable provisions of the Town of Hudson General By-laws thereby changing all references from “Office of the Executive Assistant” to “Office of the Town Manager” and all references from “Executive Assistant” to “Town Manager” or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**Article 23: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 24 Amend General By-Laws: Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-Laws as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

1. By establishing a new Article XIII, entitled “Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-Law,” to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XIII  
NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTIC REDUCTION BY-LAW**

**Section 1. Statement of Purpose**

1.1 For purposes of this By-Law, certain words and phrases appear in capitalized form. These capitalized words and phrases are defined in Section 2. Unless the context indicates otherwise, each capitalized term shall have the meaning set forth therein.

1.2 Disposable Food Service Ware – such as takeout containers, Utensils, straws, and trays – made of Foam Polystyrene, solid polystyrene, and black solid plastics can have a detrimental effect on the environment and pose potential health hazards;

1.3 Foam Polystyrene, black solid polystyrene, and disposable Black Plastic Utensils are not Biodegradable, Compostable, or recyclable in the Town of Hudson;

1.4 It is the intent of the Town of Hudson, acting through its Board of Health, to eliminate the use of foam polystyrene, black solid polystyrene, and Black Plastic in Food Service Ware and packaging by all Food and retail Establishments within the Town by January 1, 2026. This By-Law further seeks to promote the use of less toxic, more durable, reusable, recyclable, Biodegradable, and/or Compostable alternatives.

**Section 2. Definitions**

For the purpose of this By-Law, the following words shall have the following meanings:

2.1 **Black Plastic:** Food Service Ware that is primarily black in color (i.e. having a reflectance value of less than 6% in the visible spectrum (400-700 nm)) that is typically used by food service establishments for takeout food orders and for consumers to take home food left over when dining in.

2.2 **Compostable and Biodegradable:** Any product that is not made from synthetic polymers, but solely from plant-based materials such as wood, bamboo, paper, or other plant products.

2.3 **Disposable Food Service Ware:** Includes: a) Food Service Ware made from Foam Polystyrene or black plastic that is primarily for single-use and is not meant to be adequately and repeatedly cleaned and sanitized for reuse. This includes any polystyrene or Black Plastic containers used by Food Establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether such containers are used to serve such food or beverages; and b) Disposable Plastic Utensils.

2.4 **Disposable Plastic Utensil:** Any Utensil that is made predominantly from synthetic polymers and is not a Reusable Utensil.

2.5 **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or Extruded Polystyrene (XPS):** Forms of polystyrene. Extruded polystyrene is also referred to as “rigid polystyrene.” “Styrofoam” is a Dow Chemical Co. trademarked form of extruded polystyrene and is commonly used to refer to Foam Polystyrene. These are generally used to make insulated cups, bowls, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays, foam Packing Materials and egg cartons. The products are sometimes identified by a #6 resin code on the bottom. Polystyrene may be dyed with black carbon or other coloration.

2.6 **Foam Polystyrene:** A non-biodegradable petrochemical thermoplastic made from aerated forms of polystyrene and includes several methods of manufacture.

2.7 **Food Establishment:** An operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, and vends food directly to the consumer, or otherwise provides food for human consumption and/or use on or off the premises, whether or not a fee is charged, but not including the service of food within a home or other private setting. Any facility requiring a food permit in accordance with the Massachusetts State Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq. and/or regulations of the Hudson Board of Health shall be considered a “food establishment” for purposes of this By-Law.

2.8 **Food Service Ware:** Includes a) products for heating, storing, packaging, serving, consuming or transporting prepared or ready-to-consume food or beverages including, but not limited to, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, and hinged or lidded containers. This includes any containers used by Food Establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether such containers are used to serve such food or beverages; and (b) Utensils.

2.9 **Health Agent:** A Hudson Board of Health member or their designee(s).

**2.10 Packing Material:** Material used to hold, cushion or protect items packed in a container for shipping transport or storage.

**2.11 Prepared Food:** Food or beverages, which are serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared (collectively “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, seafood and/or poultry.

**2.12 Retail Establishment:** Any business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer, whether or not for profit.

**2.13 Reusable Utensil:** A Utensil that is: (a) manufactured from durable materials; (b) is not Disposable Food Service Ware; and (c) is designed to be adequately and repeatedly cleaned and sanitized for reuse.

**2.14 Utensil:** Any implement, tool, product, object, container, or device, whether reusable or disposable, designed, used, or intended for preparing, handling, serving, or consuming food or beverages, regardless of material composition.

### **Section 3. Regulated Conduct**

**3.1.** After January 1, 2026, Food Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not**:

- a. use, sell, or otherwise distribute Disposable Food Service Ware; or
- b. provide a Disposable Plastic Utensil or single-use condiment container to a customer, except upon that customer’s specific request for such items or if the item is selected by a customer from a self-service dispenser.

**3.2.** After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not** sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute:

- a. Disposable Food Service Ware made from Foam Polystyrene or Black Plastic; or
- b. meat trays, fish trays, seafood trays, vegetable trays, or egg cartons made in whole or in any part with Foam Polystyrene or solid Black Plastic.

**3.3.** After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson greater than 10,000 square feet may **not** sell Disposable Plastic Utensils unless equivalent non-plastic or reusable Utensils are available for sale and are clearly labeled such that any customer can easily distinguish among the single-use plastic, disposable non-plastic, and reusable items.

**3.4.** After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not** sell or offer for sale Packing Materials, including packing peanuts, made from Foam Polystyrene. However, this does not preclude or prevent:

- a. reusing Packing Materials for shipping, transport or storage within the same business or distribution system as long as those Packing Materials are only sent to customers or end users as dunnage and not as a product for sale; or
- b. receiving shipments within the Town of Hudson that include Foam Polystyrene used as a Packing Material, provided that the goods were not packaged or repackaged within the Town of Hudson.

#### **Section 4. Exemptions**

4.1. Nothing in this By-Law shall prohibit individuals from using Disposable Food Service Ware that has been purchased outside the Town of Hudson for personal use.

4.2. Nothing in this By-Law shall prohibit individuals from bringing and using their own personal Utensils of any type for personal use in a Food Establishment.

4.3. Prepared food packaged outside the Town of Hudson is exempt from the provisions of this By-Law, provided that it is sold or otherwise provided to the consumer in the same Disposable Food Service Ware in which it was originally packaged, and that the Prepared Food has not been altered or repackaged.

4.4. The Board of Health or Health Agent may exempt a Food Establishment or retail establishment from any provision of this By-Law for a period of up to six months upon written application by the owner or operator of that establishment. No exemption will be granted unless the Board of Health or Health Agent finds that (1) strict enforcement of the provision for which the exemption is sought would cause undue hardship\*; or (2) the Food Establishment or Retail Establishment requires additional time to draw down an existing inventory of a specific item regulated by this By-Law.

4.5. Medical facilities, nursing homes, assisted living, and residential care facilities are **exempt** from this prohibition regarding plastic straws.

\*For purposes of this By-Law, “undue hardship” shall mean a situation unique to a food establishment or retail establishment in which there are no reasonable alternatives to the use of materials prohibited by this By-Law, and that compliance with this By-Law would create significant economic hardship for the establishment.

#### **Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties**

##### **5.1 Authority**

The Town of Hudson Board of Health, and/or its designee, shall have the authority to enforce this By-Law and any regulations promulgated hereunder. The Town of Hudson may also enforce this By-Law and enjoin violations through any lawful process or combination of processes. The election of one remedy shall not preclude the Town or the Board of Health from pursuing any other lawful means of enforcement.

## 5.2 Penalties

- a. **Criminal Penalties.** Violations of this By-Law are punishable by a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) per violation. Each successive fifteen (15) day period of non-compliance shall constitute a separate violation.
- b. **Non-Criminal Disposition.** As an alternative to criminal prosecution, violators of this By-Law may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided by M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D and the Town's By-Law for Non-Criminal Disposition of Violations. In such instances, the Board of Health or its agent shall be the enforcing person, and any food or Retail Establishment found to be in violation of this By-Law shall be subject to the following penalties:

First Offense: Written Warning

Second Offense: Fifty-dollar (\$50) penalty

Third and Subsequent Offenses: Three hundred-dollar (\$300) penalty

Not more than one (1) fine shall be assessed within a fifteen (15) day period per Retail Establishment.

## 5.3 Regulations

The Board of Health may adopt, amend, or rescind rules and regulations as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this By-Law.

## Section 6. Interaction with Other Laws

In the case of a conflict between the requirements of this By-Law and any other federal, state, or local law concerning the materials regulated herein, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

## Section 7. Severability

If any provision of this By-Law is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

## Section 8. Effective Date

This By-Law shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

2. By renumbering the existing "Article XIII," titled "Application and Penalties," as "Article XIV" (retaining the same title), and updating all references to such numbering wherever they appear- including, but not limited to, any Town regulations referencing Article XIII- to reflect its new number; and

Adding the following immediately following the last line of said renumbered Article XIV:

“Article XIII

Section 5.2 Non-Recyclable  
Plastic Reduction By-law

written warning 1<sup>st</sup> offense  
\$50 2<sup>nd</sup> offense  
\$300 3<sup>rd</sup> offense and all  
subsequent offenses

Duly authorized  
agents of the Board  
of Health

Executive Assistant  
Board of Health

**Article 24: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 5-3-0**

**ARTICLE 25 Community Preservation Reservation of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses	<b>\$14,710</b>
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**Reserves:**

From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	<b>\$73,548.20</b>
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	<b>\$73,548.20</b>
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	<b>\$73,548.20</b>
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Budgeted/General Reserve	<b>\$500,127.40</b>

Or take any action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 25: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 26 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Community Preservation** available funds the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects in fiscal year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

<b>\$ 3,800</b>	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Hudson Land Trust and Conservation Commission for Old North Road Signage;
<b>\$ 10,000</b>	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Park Commission/Recreation for Lamson Park (Tripp's Pond) Survey Work;



- \$ 25,000** From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Hudson Land Trust and Conservation Commission for Design Services for Trail Improvements at Danforth Falls Conservation Land;
- \$280,000** From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Park Commission/Recreation for Construction of a Dog Park.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 26: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. (\$3,800 Vote 8-0-0), (\$10,000 Vote 9-0-0), \$25,000 Vote 8-0-0, (\$280,000 Vote 9-0-0)**

**ARTICLE 27 Community Preservation Transfer to Affordable Housing**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$73,548.20 from the Community Preservation Reserve for Community Housing fund balance to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 27: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 28 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Centennial Beach Debt Service**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of \$98,500 to pay the annual Centennial Beach Bond debt service recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the beach renovation project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 28: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 29 Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$726,540, said sum to be utilized to offset the cost of operating and maintaining a joint Police and Fire dispatch system through June 30, 2026, and such sum to be offset, in the aggregate, by the estimated receipts from public safety fees paid by the Highland Commons Shopping Center, all in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E as authorized in Article 14 of the Town Meeting of May 2, 1988; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Fire Chief  
Police Chief

Select Board

**Article 29: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 30 Assabet River Water Quality Monitoring**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from previously certified and available Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended by the Executive Assistant with the approval of the Conservation Commission to cover the costs associated with water quality monitoring of the Assabet River in Hudson and for the control of invasive water chestnut plants in the Assabet River in Hudson, or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission  
Executive Assistant

**Article 30: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 31 Departmental Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on July 1, 2025, for the Revolving Funds established in the Town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as follows:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer	FY2026 Spending Limit
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	\$20,000
Fire Alarm	Fire Chief	\$30,000
Infiltration and Inflow	DPW Director	\$400,000
Inspection Fees	Building Commissioner	\$200,000
School Department Professional Development	Superintendent of Schools	\$20,000
Senior Citizens Programs	Council on Aging	\$75,000
Public Health Inspections	Board of Health	\$75,000
Tobacco Control	Board of Health	\$15,000

Curbside Pick-Up	Department of Public Works	\$875,000
Affordable Housing	Community Development Director	\$60,000
Farmers Market	Board of Health and Conservation Agent	\$20,000
Shared Public Health Services	Board of Health	\$20,000
Vaccination Program	Board of Health	\$20,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant, Fire Chief, Finance Director, DPW Director, Building Commissioner, School Committee, Council on Aging, Board of Health, Community Development Director, Select Board

**Article 31: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0**

**ARTICLE 32 Light and Power Surplus Account**

To see if the Town will appropriate the receipts of the Light and Power Department for the operation, maintenance, expenses, repairs and construction for the Department for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026, as defined in Section 57 and 58, Chapter 164 of the General Laws (1921) of Massachusetts, as thereafter amended, and that if there shall be any unexpended balance as of December 31, 2025, an amount not to exceed \$225,000 of the same shall be transferred to the Light and Power Surplus Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Municipal Light Board  
Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 32: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 33 Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from previously certified and available Free Cash to the budget of the Lake Boon Commission, said sum to be used for invasive weed control on Lake Boon; or take any other action relative thereto.

Lake Boon Commission  
Executive Assistant

**Article 33: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 5-1-1**

**ARTICLE 34 Adoption of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23D - Mullin Rule**

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for the following boards, committees, or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions as established by said statute are met, such as certifying that examination of all evidence received at the missed session including an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Affected Boards and Commissions: Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Select Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Planning Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Conservation Commission  
Select Board

**Article 34: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 4-1-2**

**ARTICLE 35 Annual Town Reports**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town's Annual Report and file same with the permanent records of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 35: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 36 Amend General By-Laws: Finance Committee Term of Office**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Section 6.0, "Administrative Service Group," subsection 6.3, "Finance Committee," item "(a)", "Term of Office," by inserting the line in bold below:

Term of Office. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of nine citizens of the town other than town officers and members of committees. Three members of said committee shall be appointed on July first of each year to serve for three years from that date. Such committee shall be

appointed by an appointing committee as set forth in Section 3.7(b) of the Home Rule Charter. Any member of said committee who shall be elected by ballot to any (other) town office shall forthwith upon his qualification to such office, and any member who shall remove from the town shall upon such removal, cease to be a member of said committee. **Members absent from three consecutive meetings may be deemed to have resigned and may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the other members present and voting.** Said committee shall choose its own officers.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

***Article 36: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-1***

***ARTICLE 37 Petitioned Article: Addiction Referral Center***

To see if the Town will vote to take from available funds the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to assist the Addiction Referral Center in Marlborough in its efforts to provide assistance to persons from Hudson and surrounding communities who have problems with alcohol and/or substance use disorder (SUD), said funds to be expended under the direction of the Executive Assistant and the Select Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Tracey Gustafson and Ernie Kapopoulos, et al.

***Article 37: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0***

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

And you are also directed to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the several designated polling places in their respective precincts in said Hudson, to wit:

Precinct I & Precinct V	Hudson High School, 69 Brigham Street
Precinct II	Glen Road Community Center, 4 Glen Road
Precinct III & Precinct IV	David J. Quinn Middle School, 201 Manning Street
Precinct VI	Auditorium, Town Hall, 78 Main Street

*On Monday, May 12, 2025, at seven o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing year:*

*Select Board, two for three years; Moderator, one for one year; School Committee, two for three years; School Committee, one for one year ( to fill a vacancy) Trustees of Susan Cox, Joseph S. Bradley, J.J. Angell, Sarah A. Brown, George E.D. and Abigail E. Wilkins, Addie E. Cahill, Helen M. Lewis, Mary E. Tacey, Maude A. Whitney, Clara E. Houghton Funds and Martin Joseph Moran III, one for three years; Trustees of Susan Cox, Joseph S. Bradley, J.J. Angell, Sarah A. Brown, George E.D. and Abigail E. Wilkins, Addie E. Cahill, Helen M. Lewis, Mary E. Tacey, Maude A. Whitney, Clara E. Houghton Funds and Martin Joseph Moran III, one for one year ( to fill a vacancy); Housing Authority, one for four years (to fill a vacancy) Municipal Light Board, one for three years; Park Commission, one for three years; Board of Health, one for three years; Library Trustees, one for three years; Planning Board, two for three years; Cemetery Commission, one for three years; Constable, one for three years; and Board of Assessors, one for three years; Vocational Regional School Committee One for two years ( to fill a vacancy).*

**BALLOT QUESTION (May 12, 2025)**

*Shall the Town of Hudson be allowed to assess an additional \$3,950,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding school and municipal operations for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand twenty five? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_*

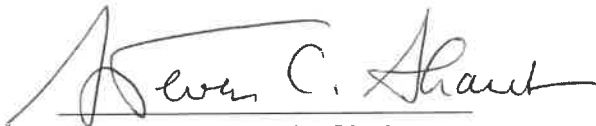

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up copies attested by you in the following places: one at the Post Office, one at the Town House, one at the Office of the Town Clerk, and in six other public places in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by publication in a newspaper published in said Town.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Duplisea, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Congdon, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven C. Sharek, Clerk  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Quinn

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane G. Bemis

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## INTRODUCTION TO TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting is a deliberative assembly, charged with considering a number of questions of varying complexity in a reasonable period of time, and with full regard to the rights of the majority.

### AUTHORITY

The three elements of authority at Town Meeting are a quorum of 150 registered voters or more, the Moderator and the Town Clerk.

The Moderator presides at and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and makes declarations of all votes. No one may speak on an issue without being recognized by the Moderator. It is his responsibility to approve the distribution of materials, and persons wishing to do so must seek his permission. The Moderator appoints Tellers and alternates for the purpose of counting votes of the meeting.

### THE WARRANT

All matters to be considered at Town Meeting must be published in the Town Meeting Warrant, which is the responsibility of the Select Board. The Finance Committee reviews the warrant, making recommendations on items of business to be presented. In accordance with the by-laws, all articles in the Warrant are considered in the order in which they appear in the Warrant, unless the Town Meeting, after reasons have been stated. The Moderator has full discretion to decide whether or not the motion to change the order of articles will be entertained.

### PARTICIPATION

All remarks should be limited to the subject then under discussion. It is improper to indulge in references to personalities. The Moderator may request any person to keep silent. If after warning from the Moderator, a person refuses to be silent or persists in other disorderly behavior, the Moderator may order a person to withdraw and if he fails to withdraw, may order a police officer to remove such person from the Meeting. Each individual who speaks to the Meeting should try to be as brief as possible out of consideration for others attending the Meeting and the need to give adequate time to all matters coming before it.

### CLASSIFIED MOTIONS

Pursuant to section 8 of article II of the by-laws of the Town of Hudson, when a question comes before Town Meeting certain motions shall be received and have precedence in the following order:

**PRIVILEGED MOTIONS:** These are motions that have no connection with the main motion before the Town Meeting, but are motions of such importance that they are entitled to immediate consideration. These motions have the privilege of temporarily setting aside the main business before the Town Meeting.

**TO ADJOURN** (decided without debate):

**TO FIX THE TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

**SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS:** These are motions that are used to modify or dispose of the main motion being considered. Their existence as motions depend on the main motion to which they are subordinate.

**TO LAY ON THE TABLE** (decided without debate)

**FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION** (decided without debate)

**TO COMMIT**

**TO AMEND**

**TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY**

All motions may be withdrawn by the maker if no objection is made.

### INFORMATION ON MOTIONS

A motion is the means of bringing a proposal or question before the Meeting for consideration. When put forward it is a motion; after is seconded and acknowledged by the Moderator, it becomes the question or proposal; and if it is approved by the Meeting, it becomes a resolution. Generally, no motion shall be entertained unless the subject is contained within a warrant article. The Moderator shall determine whether a motion is within the "scope of the article," that is, whether the warrant gives adequate notice that the action proposed by the motion might be taken at the Meeting. Articles only give notice and do not initiate action; motions do. Motions may be withdrawn; articles may not be. Some motions avoid a final determination by the Meeting. A motion to commit or refer sends the matter to



an existing board or committee or one to be established. The motion to postpone indefinitely disposes of the question without bringing it to a direct vote. The motion to postpone indefinitely should not be confused with the motion to lay on the table which only temporarily delays a vote.

Pursuant to article II, section 3 of the Town of Hudson by-laws, no vote of Town Meeting shall be reconsidered except upon notice by an individual who voted with the majority thereon given within one hour of such vote at the same or succeeding session. If the individual who gives notice does not immediately make such motion, then a motion to reconsider may be made by another individual voter who voted with the majority.

Pursuant to section 4 of article II, no article in the Warrant shall be again taken into consideration after disposed of unless ordered by a vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting. Pursuant to section 5 of article II, no voter shall speak more than twice upon any question without obtaining leave of Town Meeting except to correct an error or explain a point, nor until all other individuals who have not spoken and so desire have been given the opportunity to speak. Pursuant to section 6 of article II, all motions must be reduced to writing before being submitted to the Town Meeting if required by the Moderator.

Pursuant to section 9 of article II, a motion to receive the report of a committee shall put the report before Town Meeting but not discharge the committee. A vote to accept or adopt such report with or without amendment shall discharge the committee.

Pursuant to section 10 of article II, a 150-voter quorum is required to conduct business at Town Meeting. However, no quorum is needed for a motion to adjourn.

Pursuant to section 11 of article II, articles in a warrant shall be considered in order, except that the Moderator upon request and for reasons stated, may entertain a motion to consider an article out of regular order.

Pursuant to section 12 of article II and in addition to the authority already specified above, the Moderator may administer the oath of office to a town officer chosen at Town Meeting. If a vote declared by the Moderator is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, then the Moderator must verify the vote by polling voters or dividing the Town Meeting. If a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required by State Statute, the count shall be taken and the vote recorded by the Town Clerk. However, if the vote is declared to be unanimous, a count is not needed and the Town Clerk shall record the vote as unanimous unless immediately questioned by seven or more voters.

#### TOWN FINANCE TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are used from time to time in the Annual Report and Town Meeting. In order to provide everyone with a better understanding of the meaning, the following definitions are offered:

**SURPLUS REVENUE:** (Sometimes referred to as Excess and Deficiency Account). This fund is the amount by which the Cash, Accounts Receivable, and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** (Often called "Free Cash") This fund represents the amount of money remaining after deducting from the Surplus Revenue all uncollected taxes for prior years, taxes in litigation and court judgments. This fund is certified annually by the State Bureau of Accounts and may be used to defray town costs by a vote of the Town Meeting.

**OVERLAY:** The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover tax abatements and exemptions granted and to avoid fractions in the tax rate.

**RESERVE FUND:** This is a fund established by the voters at the annual town meeting and may consist of direct appropriations or transfers. Transfers from the Reserve Fund are initiated by the Executive Assistant and require the approval of the Finance Committee. The use of the Reserve Fund is restricted to "extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures".